

REMARKS

Claims 1-20, 38, 39, and 43-54 are pending. Claims 21-37 and 40-42 have been canceled. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Applicants again note with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-20, 38 and 39.

Claims 40-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dreifus (US 5,391,895). Claims 40-42 have been canceled; therefore the merits of the Examiner's rejection shall not be discussed in this paper.

Claim 51 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dreifus in view of Takahashi (US 5,751,024). Claim 51 has been amended to depend from claim 43, which the Examiner has indicated contains allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 51 is believed to be allowable. The Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claim 51 be withdrawn.

The Applicants again note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 43-50 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. According, claims 43, 45, 48 and 49 have been rewritten in independent form and are believed to be in allowable form. Claims 44, 46, 47 and 50 depend from these claims and are therefore believed to be in allowable form.

New claim 52, which is similar to claim 51, depends from rewritten claim 45, which is now allowable. Therefore, claim 52 is allowable.

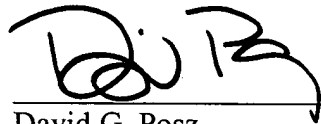
New claim 53 which is similar to claim 51, depends from rewritten claim 48, which is now allowable. Therefore, claim 53 is allowable.

New claim 54 which includes the limitations of claims 41 and 51, depends from rewritten claim 49, which is allowable. Therefore, claim 54 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. G. Posz', written over a horizontal line.

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